

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CU-04 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 IO-10 /086 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 6663

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MILI, TH

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT ON THE RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 16.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS
ON THE RAMASAN GATE INCIDENT.

KHUKRIT: SHOULD ANY OFFENSE BE COMMITTED IT IS THE DUTY OF
THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTION THEMSELVES. FOR
INSTANCE THAILAND HAS BEEN GIVEN THIS RIGHT IN EVERY COUNTRY
WE HAVE SENT TROOPS TO. WHEN WE SENT TROOPS TO VIETNAM. OUR
TROOPS ENJOYED THE SAME RIGHT, AND THEY DID NOT HAVE TO BE
PRODUCED IN OR TURNED OVER TO A VIETNAMESE COURT. I UNDERSTAND
THAT THIS IS A CUSTOME FOLLOWED IN ALL COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD.

REPORTER: ISN'T THAT IN REGARD TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES ONLY?

KHUKRIT: I BELIEVE IT COVERS ALL ACTIONS THAT CONSTITUTE
OFFENSES. BUT I DON'T KNOW. BUT MY UNDERSTANDING
IS AS I SAID JUST NOW.

REPORTER: IN THAT CASE, WAS THE STAND TAKEN BY THE
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AMERICAN CONSUL CORRECT?

KHUKRIT: THAT WAS MY OWN CONCLUSION: BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHETHER IT IS RIGHT OR WRONG.

REPORTER: STUDENTS ARE MAKING DEMANDS BECAUSE STATEMENTS
ARE VERY VAGUE. COULD THE GOVERNMENT ISSUE A STATE-
MENT THAT IS CLEAR, BECAUSE STUDENTS SUSPECT THAT THIS
INCIDENT CONVERNS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY ALSO?

KHUKRIT: I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS WHAT YET. BUT FROM
PRACTICE ADHERED TO BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES. I HAVEN'T HEARD
OF ANY CASE IN WHICH SOLDIERS HAVE TO BE PRODUCED IN COURT.

REPORTER: IS THAT UNDER AN AGREEMENT COLUDED?

KHUKRIT: IT IS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

REPORTER: SHOULD AN OFFENSE BE COMMITTED, BUT AMERICAN
MILITARY AUTHORITIES NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AT ALL AGAINST
THE OFFENDERS, THEN WHAT ACTION COULD WE TAKE?

KHUKRIT: DEMANDS COULD BE MADE, SUCH AS DEMANDING
FOR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID FOR DAMAGES DONE. SHOULD THE
OFFENSE COMMITTED HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST A THAI.
MASTERS

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